

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Hearings for the South Delta Improvements Program



California Department of Water Resources

To Responsible and Interested Parties:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has made available for public review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) for the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP).

Project Location

The SDIP is located in the south Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta (south Delta). It is nearest to the cities of Stockton, Tracy, and Lathrop, California. The SDIP and its alternatives may affect the counties of Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Solano, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba.

Project Description

The SDIP is being pursued to address the needs of the Delta aquatic environment, as well as longstanding statewide, regional, and local water supply needs.

DWR and Reclamation have identified the following project objectives and purpose:

- reduce the movement of San Joaquin River watershed Central Valley fall-/late fall–run juvenile Chinook salmon into the south Delta via Old River;
- maintain adequate water levels and, through improved circulation, water quality available for agricultural diversions in the south Delta, downstream of the head of Old River; and
- increase water deliveries and delivery reliability for SWP and CVP water contractors south of the Delta and provide opportunities to convey water for fish and wildlife purposes by increasing the maximum permitted level of diversion through the existing intake gates at CCF to 8,500 cfs.

The following describes the basic actions related to the physical/structural component and the operational component of the SDIP:

- replace the seasonal barrier with a permanent operable fish control gate on Old River
- replace inefficient seasonal barriers with permanent operable flow control gates on Middle River, Grant Line Canal and Old River

- dredge portions of Middle River, Old River, and West, Grant Line, Victoria and North Canals to improve flows in the south Delta channels
- increase permitted limit for diversions into Clifton Court Forebay.

Significant Environmental Impacts. Significant impacts are identified in the following categories: geology/seismicity, air quality, fisheries, vegetation and wetlands, wildlife, visual/aesthetic, and cultural resources. Other resource categories for which impacts were found to be less than significant include tidal hydraulics, flood control and levee stability, sediment transport, water quality, water supply, groundwater resources, transportation and navigation, noise, land and water use, social and economic conditions, utilities and public services, recreation resources, power production and energy, public health and environmental hazards, environmental justice, and Indian Trust Assets.

Listed Toxic Sites. Based on information known to date, the project site(s) are not listed toxic sites.

Document Availability

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR are available for public inspection and review at the following locations:

City	Location	Address
Sacramento	California Department of Water Resources	1416 9 th Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento	Sacramento Public Library	828 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Tracy	Tracy Branch Library	20 East Eaton Avenue Tracy, CA 95376
Lathrop	Lathrop Branch Library	15461 Seventh Street Lathrop, CA 95330
Stockton	Cesar Chavez Central Library	60 North El Dorado Street Stockton, CA 95202
Redding	Shasta County Main Library	1855 Shasta Street Redding, CA 96001
Oakland	Oakland Main Library	125 14 th Street Oakland, CA 94612
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Central Library	630 West 5 th Street Los Angeles, CA 90071
Visalia	Visalia Branch Library—Main Library	200 West Oak Avenue Visalia, CA 93291-4993

The document may also be viewed at <http://sdip.water.ca.gov>. A CD containing the Draft EIS/EIR may be requested from Wanda Headrick at the California Department of Water Resources or by calling (916) 653-7129. Documents referenced in the Draft EIS/EIR are available at the California Department of Water Resources, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814.

Public Comment Period

The comment period for this document begins on November 10, 2005, and closes on February 7, 2006. All comments must be received by February 7, 2006. Hardcopy comments may be mailed to Mr. Paul Marshall, SDIP EIS/EIR Comments, State of California Department of Resources, Bay Delta Office, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California, 95814. Electronic comments may be emailed to sdip_comments@water.ca.gov.

Public Hearings

Five public meetings/hearings are scheduled with DWR and Reclamation. Oral or written comments will be received at these meetings regarding the project's environmental effects. The specifics of these meetings are:

City	Date	Time	Location
Sacramento	December 6, 2005	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Resources Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street
Stockton	December 7, 2005	7 – 9 p.m.	American Legion Post 803, 3110 West Lane
Oakland	December 8, 2005	7 – 9 p.m.	CSU East Bay Oak. Conf. Center, 1000 Broadway
Visalia	December 13, 2005	7 – 9 p.m.	Mill Creek Auditorium, 3100 West Main
Los Angeles	December 14, 2005	1 – 3 p.m.	Junipero Serra State Building, 320 West Fourth Street, Carmel Room 225

Printed Name, Title

Katherine Kelly, Chief, Bay-Delta Office



Signature

November 10, 2005

Date